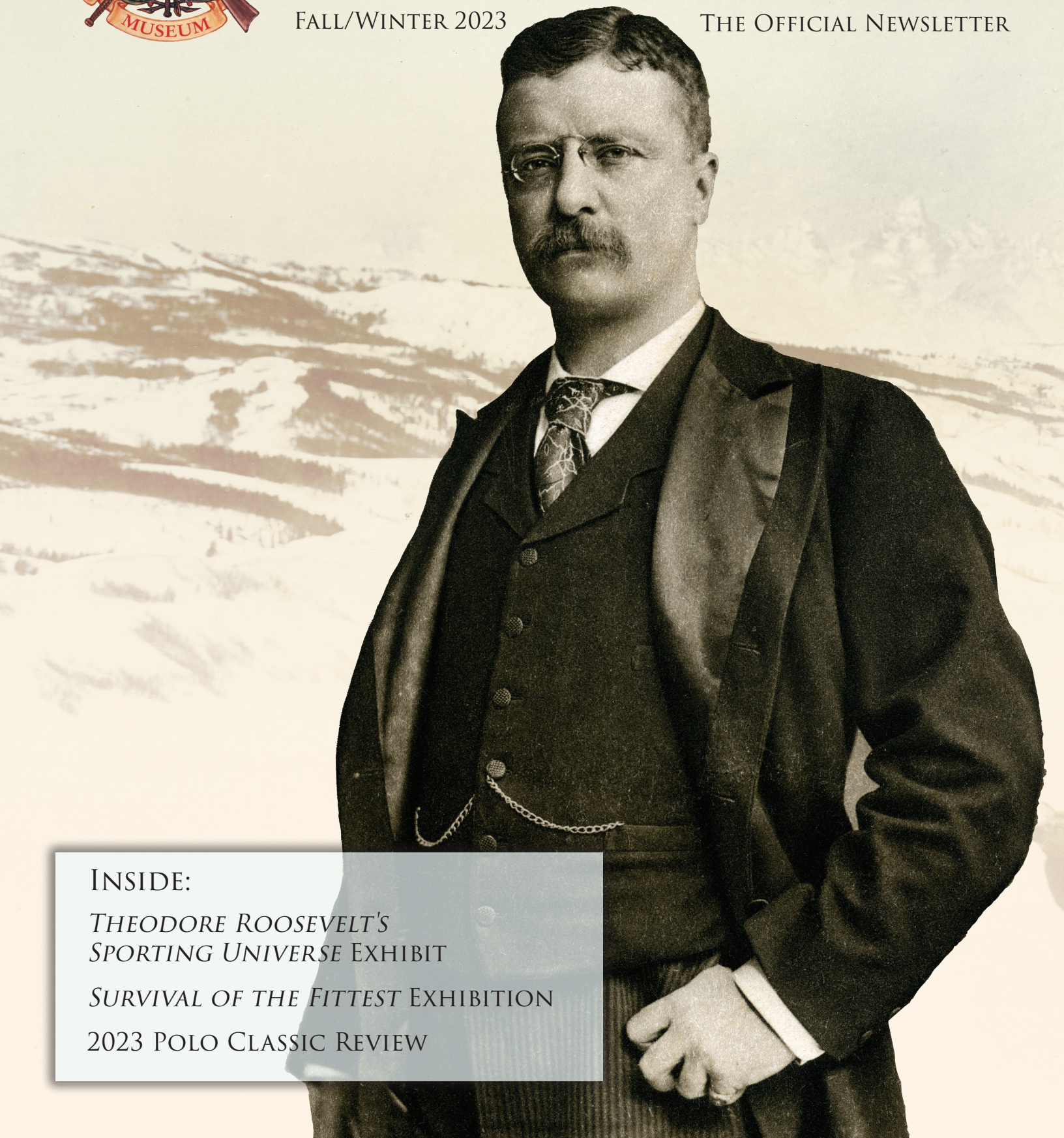
Dedicated to preserving, promoting, and sharing the literature, art, and culture of equestrian, angling, and field sports

National Sporting Library & Museum

Committed to education and advocacy for the conservation of open space and waterways integral to these pursuits

Fall/Winter 2023

The Official Newsletter



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FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

As we move towards the end of the year, we reflect on the tremendous success of 2023 at the National Sporting Library & Museum (NSLM).

Our NSLM Polo Classic Presented by MARS EQUESTRIAN™ netted over $345,000, tying 2022 as our best year ever. Funds raised go directly to supporting the NSLM's crucial operating needs. Thank you to everyone who came out in support of the event, and particularly to our Committee, co-chaired by Jacqueline B. Mars and Juliana E. May, for their leadership. Please save the date for next year's Polo Classic on Sunday, September 15, 2024!

Survival of the Fittest: Envisioning Wildlife and Wilderness with the Big Four, Masterworks from the Rijksmuseum Twenthe and the National Museum of Wildlife Art, made possible by Mary W. and Manuel H. Johnson, Jacqueline B. Mars, Virginia Guest Valentine, and Susan and John Mullin, opened to incredible fanfare. This landmark exhibition continues to raise the national profile of our organization, drawing in visitors from far and wide. If you have not yet had the opportunity to see *Survival of the Fittest*, be sure to visit before it leaves on January 14.

Complementing the themes of wildlife and conservation in the Museum, the Library's Forrest E. Mars, Sr. Exhibit Hall features *Theodore Roosevelt's Sporting Universe*. The exhibit will run for 20 weeks, allowing us to turn one page of our 1886 original Roosevelt manuscript, "Riding to Hounds on Long Island," weekly. Thank you to Jacqueline B. Mars for underwriting and hosting the sold-out opening of this exhibition which featured guest speaker Tweed Roosevelt and was attended by Lucky Roosevelt.

Fall has been packed with unique programs creatively exploring our mission and resulting in sold-out attendance. This past month, Madeleine Bunbury, was the NSLM's first Artist in Residence. She spent a week painting a live pony named Rooster in our Founders' Room. Over 200,000 people viewed the painting's progress on social media! The world-renowned Dr. Laurie Marker of the Cheetah Conservation Fund shared her story and the important work that the organization is doing throughout the world. This type of program highlights our increased commitment to the conservation of open space, waterways, habitat, and wildlife integral to our mission.

Thanks to the support of our Board and efforts of our Capital Campaign Committee and generous donors, we have raised $14.905 million towards our Capital Campaign. The Campaign will help us ensure the future sustainability of the Library & Museum. We are thrilled to announce that we have just received an exciting match of $50,000 to help us close out the Campaign. As we move towards the end of the year, please consider making a gift to **double your impact** and help us reach our goal!

On behalf of the NSLM, thank you for your continued support which has made these exhibitions, programs, and events possible, and this year such a success. Happy Holidays from our NSLM family to yours!

Elizabeth von Hassell

NATIONAL SPORTING LIBRARY & MUSEUM NEWSLETTER
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THEODORE ROOSEVELT'S SPORTING UNIVERSE

THIS HIGHLY ANTICIPATED EXHIBIT IS ON VIEW IN THE FORREST E. MARS, SR. EXHIBIT HALL THROUGH MARCH 31, 2024

Theodore Roosevelt (1858–1919) was one of his era's greatest sportsmen and naturalists. With seemingly limitless energy, he enthusiastically participated in, wrote about—and, more importantly, fought for—traditional sporting pastimes and the conservation of the open space needed for their survival. Recognizing that he could not do this alone, he worked alongside an inimitable group of like-minded allies to preserve fauna and their haunts as well as bolster the quantity and quality of American sporting literature. Pulling from the F. Ambrose Clark Rare Book Room's extraordinary holdings, this intimate exhibit

assembles over thirty books and artifacts that convey the lasting impact made by Roosevelt and his contemporaries upon the history of traditional field sports.

"There's something for everyone in this show," says exhibit curator Colleen Yarger, Ph.D., the NSLM George L. Ohrstrom, Jr. Curator of Library Collections, "but, it starts with the Roosevelt manuscript."

EDWARD DUKE OF YORK
EDWARD DUKE OF ALBEMARLE
EDWARD LORD OF BRUNDALE
EDWARD EARL OF RUTLAND
EDWARD BARON OF MATLOCK
EDWARD EARL OF CAMBRIDGE
EDWARD LORD OF TRIM
EDWARD DUKE OF ALBEMARLE
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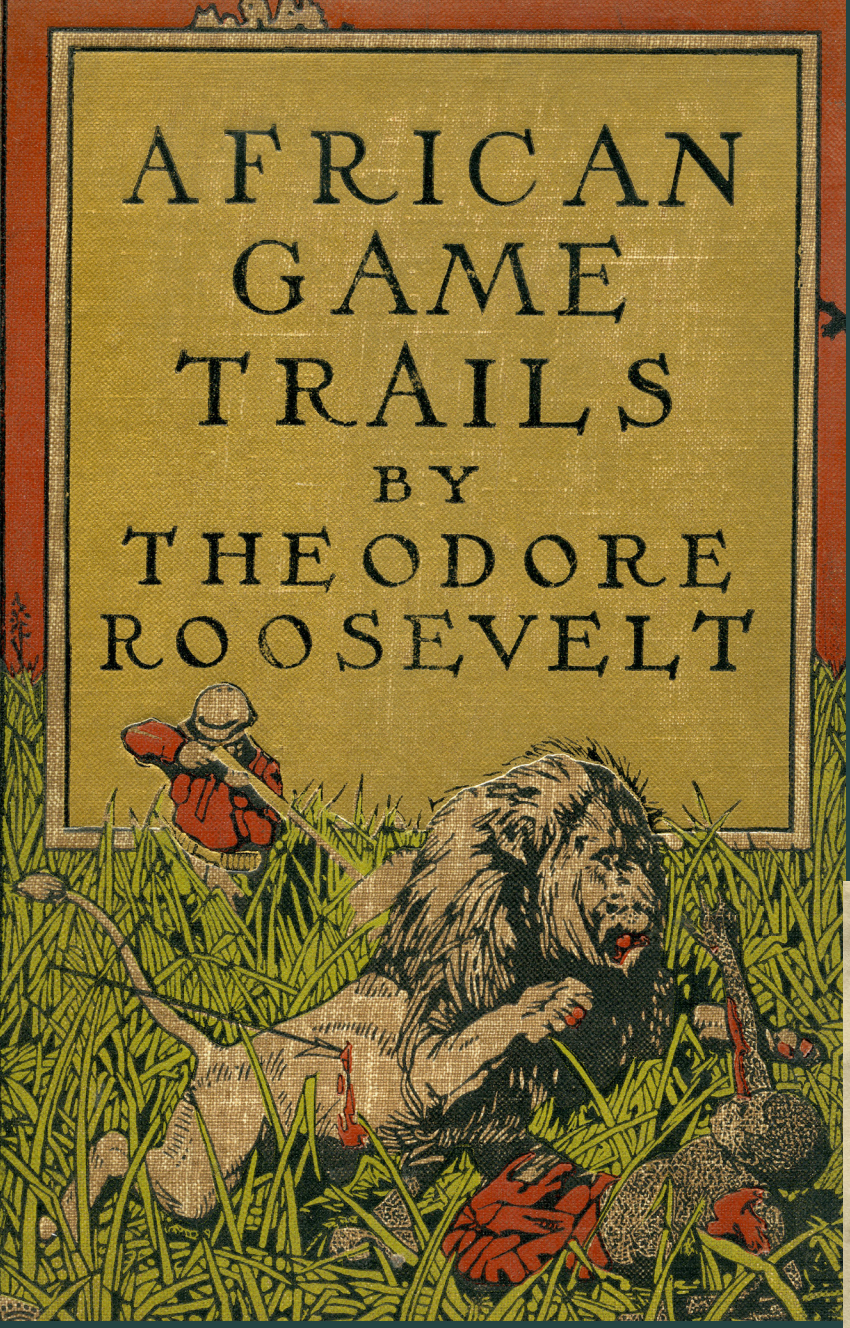


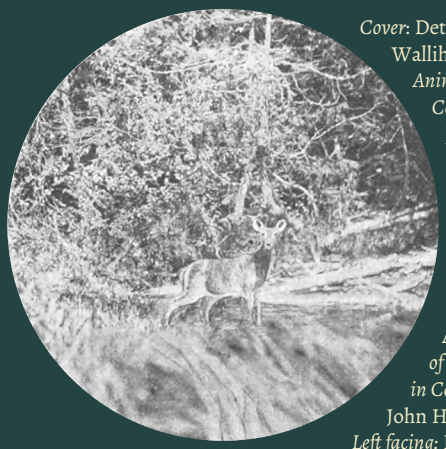
COFFEE WITH THE CURATOR

Colleen Yarger, Ph.D.
George L. Ohrstrom, Jr.
Curator of Library Collections
January 27, 2024 | 10–11:30 am

Free for NSLM Members | $15 for Non-members

Coffee and refreshments will be available in the Library lobby from 10–10:30 am. The program will be held both in-person and virtually through Facebook Live from 10:30–11:30 am.

Coffee provided by
Middleburg Common Grounds



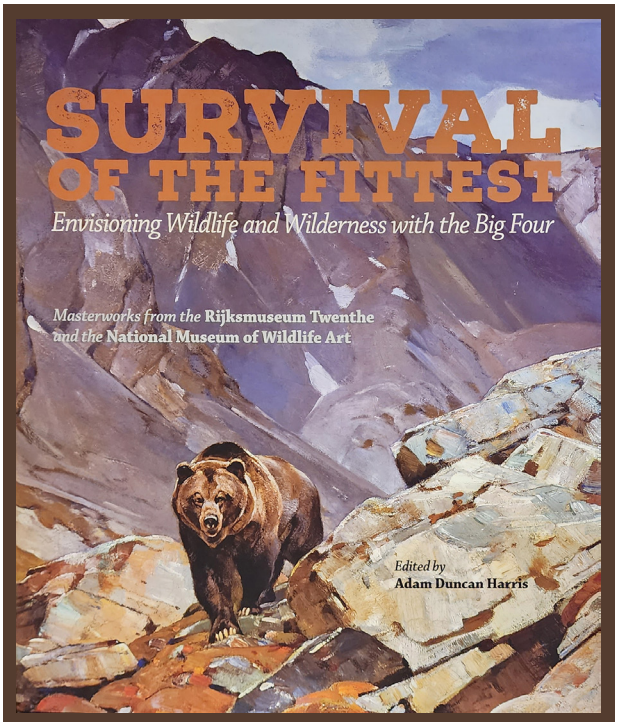
Cover: Detail of Augusta and A.G. Wallihan, *Sixty Photographs of Wild Animals and Hunting Scenes in Colorado*, 1894–1899 (photo album), John H. and Martha Daniels Collection; Detail of Theodore Roosevelt, "Riding to Hounds on Long Island," c. 1886 (manuscript), John H. and Martha Daniels Collection

Article: Detail of Augusta and A.G. Wallihan, *Sixty Photographs of Wild Animals and Hunting Scenes in Colorado*, 1894–1899 (photo album), John H. and Martha Daniels Collection; *Left facing:* Edward, of Norwich (English, 1373? –1415), *The Master of Game: The Oldest English Book on Hunting*, edited by William A. Baillie-Grohman and F. Baillie-Grohman (London: Ballantyne, Hanson, & Co, 1904), binding by Zaehnsdorf, the Estate of Brooks McCormick, 2007; *Top:* Theodore Roosevelt, *African Game Trails* (New York: Syndicate Publishing Co., 1910), gift of Samuel E. Neel, 1996; *Above:* Detail of George Shiras, 3D (American, 1859–1942), "Doe," published in "Still-Hunting with a Camera," *Forest and Stream*, September 8, 1892; *Right:* Detail of Carl Rungius (American, born Germany, 1869–1959), "The Challenge," illustration in *The Deer Family* (New York: The Macmillan Company, 1902).

SURVIVAL OF THE FITTEST

Envisioning Wildlife and Wilderness with the Big Four

On view through January 14, 2024



***Survival of the Fittest* catalogues are available for purchase at the Museum front desk and online at www.NationalSporting.org.**

"Art is about insight shared with other people. Conservation is about generosity toward other species. Wilderness teaches us humility. The works of the Big Four—Carl Rungius, Wilhelm Kuhnert, Richard Friese, and Bruno Liljefors—embody these principals," wrote Harvey Locke, the Cofounder of Yellowstone to Yukon Conservation Initiative in his forward to the exhibition catalogue for *Survival of the Fittest: Envisioning Wildlife and Wilderness with the Big Four, Masterworks from the Rijksmuseum Twenthe and the National Museum of Wildlife Art.*

On view at the National Sporting Library & Museum (NSLM) through January 14, the exhibition gathers approximately 50 masterworks by the artists who are collectively known as the "Big Four" for their seminal artistic contributions in the 19th and early 20th centuries. Sweeping depictions of a wide variety of wildlife are presented including Cape buffalo, capercaillies, Dall sheep, elephants, lions, mountain goats, and polar bears.

The paintings—many of which are oversized—are on display throughout three-quarters of the Museum galleries, which are painted in a dramatic National Geographic black, inspired by the exhibition's premiere installation at the National Museum of Wildlife Art (NMWA) in Jackson Hole, WY. Grainger/Kerr Director of the Carl Rungius Catalogue Raisonné Adam Duncan Harris, who is the curator of the exhibition organized by the NMWA, joined the NSLM for an upper-level member preview and seated dinner as well as the accompanying *Coffee with the Curator* program. He noted that these four painters were foundational in their influence on future generations of wildlife artists, through their artistic representations of the animals they observed in their natural habitats in such far-ranging places as Banff, Canada; historic German East Africa (now Tanzania); Svalgard Archipelago in Norway; and remote areas of Sweden.

Harris became Chief Curator of the NMWA in 2000, and held the position for over 19 years. He wrote in his *Survival of the Fittest* catalogue acknowledgments, "Of any exhibit I've been privileged to work on, this one undoubtedly has had the longest time to germinate." He first had the idea in 2003 when he visited the Rijksmuseum Twenthe, Enshede, The Netherlands. It is the only institution in the world other than the NMWA to hold works by all four artists represented in the exhibition. This is the first time that a project of this magnitude combines these two impressive collections.

"We are honored to host this important exhibition that aligns with our mission, the quality of which is unparalleled," noted the NSLM's Chair Manuel H. Johnson. "It is one of the best exhibitions we have ever had at the NSLM and should not be missed." After it closes at the NSLM, it will travel to the James Museum of Western and Wildlife Art, Briscoe Western Art Museum, Leigh Yawkey Woodson Art Museum, and Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art.

Survival of the Fittest is made possible at the National Sporting Library & Museum by Mary W. and Manuel H. Johnson, Jacqueline B. Mars, Virginia Guest Valentine, and Susan and John Mullin.

CONSERVATOR LEVEL OPENING AND DINNER

2023 NSLM Polo Classic

Presented by MARS Equestrian

The 2023 National Sporting Library & Museum Polo Classic Presented by MARS EQUESTRIAN™ took place on Sunday, September 10, at Great Meadow Foundation in The Plains, VA. Thank you to everyone who attended making this a sold-out event!

As the NSLM's sole annual fundraising event, proceeds from the Polo Classic support the organization's mission throughout the year. This year the event raised $346,000, tying 2022 as our best yet! The 2023 Polo Classic was co-chaired by NSLM Board Vice Chair Jacqueline B. Mars, and Juliana E. May, along with Anjela Carroll, Kitty Dove, Gertraud Hechl, Kristin Holloway, Cristina Hug, Amy Kelly, Bundles Murdock, and Donna Stutzman.

The official artwork for the event poster, sponsored by McCormick & Co., was *Red, White, & Blue*, 2023, by local artist and signature member of the American Academy of Equine Art, Linda Volrath. The work was for sale as part of the silent auction held in conjunction with the event.

The silent auction also featured unique experiences relating to the pillars of the NSLM's mission: equestrian, angling, and field sports. Items included a beautiful bronze horse sculpture, a dove hunting trip in Argentina, a pack trip in Wyoming, and a private sail on the Chesapeake. In addition to the silent auction, Salon Sponsor Lugano Diamonds generously donated a $20,000 pair of earrings for an "Opportunity Draw." Guests of the Polo Classic had the exclusive opportunity to purchase a 1 in 100 chance to win the set.

The morning's Founders' Cup featured the Holman Hall Team, sponsored by NSLM Board Chair Manuel H. Johnson and his wife, Mary, and the NSLM Team, sponsored by NSLM Board Member Donald G. Calder and his wife, Ann. Holman Hall was represented by Weston Hasser, Tyler Burdick, Nico Eurnekian, and Doug Barnes. Playing for NSLM were Audrey Wilde, Trevor Niznik, Bauti Michelletti, and Greg Grigorian. The close match was won by the NSLM Team. The MVP Award, presented by Securiport, LLC, went to Greg Grigorian of the NSLM

team, and the Best Playing Pony, co-sponsored by BUCKEYE™ Nutrition and Tri-County Feeds, Fashion, Finds, was owned and ridden by Audrey Wilde.

The afternoon's Mars Cup was NetJets vs. Salamander. The NetJets team featured Andy Hertneky, Toto Altuna, Marcos Bignoli, and Bauti Peluso. Kareem and Daymar Rosser, alumni of the Work to Ride Foundation in Philadelphia, played on the Salamander team alongside Connor Marsden and John Gobin. NetJets took home the win in this fast-paced match. Daymar Rosser was awarded the MVP of the Mars Cup, and the Best Playing Pony was ridden by Bauti Peluso.

Both matches began with a presentation of colors by the St. Andrews Society of D.C. and a parade featuring the Official Luxury Car Sponsor, Pohanka Automotive. Katerina Burton, an alumna of the Cafritz Young Artist Program of the Washington National Opera, opened the first match with *America the Beautiful* and the second match with *The Star-Spangled Banner*.

Following the first match, the hounds of the Piedmont Fox Hounds, led by huntsman Jordan Hicks, circled the field in the traditional Parade of the Hounds. During the Dog Divot Stomps sponsored by NUTRO™, guests were treated to sparkling wine from sponsor Bouvet Ladubay, and two lucky dogs were selected as the recipients of the Best Turned Out Dog Award.

Please join us for next year's NSLM Polo Classic on Sunday, September 15, 2024!

Photos by Erin Gilmore and 22 Gates Photography

The NSLM's *Capital Campaign*

We are delighted to be in the final stages of our major Capital Campaign and are only $50,000 away from our $15-million goal, thanks to a generous $50,000 match.

Please help us reach the finish line!

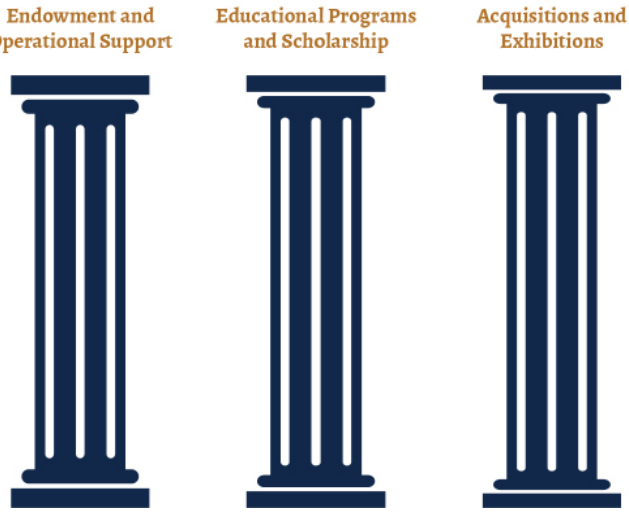
The Campaign supports the long-term sustainability of the National Sporting Library & Museum (NSLM), helping to ensure the organization's impact for future generations. The effort focuses on three main pillars: Endowment and Operational Support, Educational Programs and Scholarship, and Acquisitions and Exhibitions.

The NSLM is unique in the world, serving as a steward of the history of all traditional field sports. We are a national and international destination for exhibitions, programs, scholarship, and special collections. However, the NSLM receives no state or federal government funding and operates with a small endowment. This means that our work is entirely supported by the generosity of our members and friends—such as yourself—throughout the year. The Capital Campaign will help us to sustain the incredible growth and success we have seen, preserving sporting life and traditions and advocating for open space and waterways for decades to come.

Please consider making a gift to the Capital Campaign today and double your impact!

Contributions can be made with the enclosed envelope or online at: NationalSporting.org/capital-campaign!

Three Main Pillars of **The Capital Campaign**



$50,000 Match Gift

All gifts up to a total of $50,000 will be matched 1:1, doubling your impact!

With your help, we can reach the finish line!

RECENT CAMPAIGN GIFT HIGHLIGHTS

EVE PRIME FOUT MUSEUM TERRACE

Thanks to a generous gift from the Fout Family on behalf of the Dun Foundation, the Museum Terrace will be dedicated in memory of Eve Prime Fout (American, 1929–2007). She was a beloved local figure, a well-known artist, and accomplished equestrian.

It is wholly appropriate that the Museum's front entrance will be dedicated to the artist, welcoming visitors with a plaque reading, "celebrating her contribution to sporting art which was inspired by her love of horses, equine sports, and the Virginia countryside."

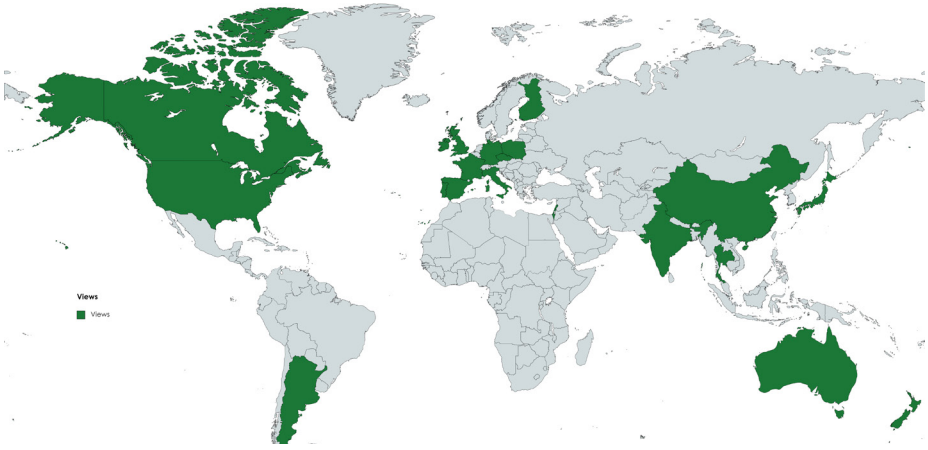
Above: Eve Prime Fout (American, 1929–2007), *Stalking Fox*, 2001, bronze, 10 1/4 x 22 1/4 x 6 1/2 inches, National Sporting Library & Museum, Gift of the artist, 2001; *Right:* Eve Prime Fout with sculpture, c. 2001

SHOCKEY LIBRARY DIGITIZATION FUND

Board member Mary Shockey and her husband Don have generously contributed $100,000 towards the digitization of the Library's F. Ambrose Clark Rare Book Room.

Currently, more than 2,000 pages are being digitized daily. They are available to scholars and enthusiasts around the world on the online platform Internet Archive at no cost.

This project will make the NSLM's unparallelled rare book collections more accessible and help us to grow our national and international reach.



NSLM INTERNET ARCHIVE REACH BY COUNTRY:

- Argentina
- Australia
- Canada
- China
- The Czech Republic
- Finland
- France
- Germany
- India
- Ireland
- Italy
- Japan
- Lebanon
- New Zealand
- Poland
- Portugal
- Spain
- Thailand
- United Kingdom

the journal

Recent news and updates from the Library & Museum

Artist in Residence: Madeleine Bunbury

For a week in October, our Founders' Room was buzzing with energy and excitement. In addition to welcoming our Artist in Residence, equine portrait painter Madeleine Bunbury (English, b. 1995), we also hosted a small chestnut pony named "Rooster," owned by Snowden Clarke.

Rooster stood stock still for several hours a day, as Bunbury created a life-size oil portrait of him. With the formal backdrop of our Founders' Room, and with a bevy of fans watching in awe, she created a striking likeness of Rooster. On his breaks, Rooster was the talk of the town as he ate lunch at the Red Horse Tavern and cruised around Middleburg to visit friends at Thomas & Talbot and Tully Rector.

Bunbury's sessions were live streamed on social media and went viral. The posts recieved more than 200,000 views nationwide.

To conclude the week, Bunbury instructed a packed Sunday Sketch in our Founders' Room with the live pony as the model. Everyone who attended the program gave rave reviews.

Upon completion, Bunbury graciously donated her painting to be auctioned. Pamela and Brad Ryder were the lucky winners of the work. All proceeds will benefit the NSLM.

We look forward to Madeleine Bunbury's return in October 2024.

Sunday Sketch

Pamela and Brad Ryder were the winning bidders of *"Rooster"*

Rooster eats lunch at the Red Horse Tavern

Madeleine Bunbury signs her completed painting as Reid O'Connor holds Rooster

Interfaith Blessing of the Animals

On October 1, for the sixth year in a row, we had a successful Blessing of the Animals, thanks in large part to Gene LeCouteur, Rector at Emmanuel Episcopal Church in Middleburg. Mother Nature smiled on the event and the large group of people and their beloved pets gathered to be blessed. The ceremony was led by Rev. LeCouteur with assistance from ministers from several other faith communities in the Middleburg area. With more animals than humans, all creatures great and small attended. From gerbils to horses and everything in between, we were blessed to have another successful program!

We look forward to continuing our partnership in 2024.

Dr. Laurie Marker: Making the Wild a Better Place

Expanding on the animal theme in October, we had the pleasure of hearing from Dr. Laurie Marker, the world's leading cheetah expert and founder of the Cheetah Conservation Fund (CCF). Speaking to a packed house, Dr. Marker shared intriguing updates on her foundation's tireless work to reintroduce cheetahs into India after having been extinct there for more than 70 years. She also chronicled their work disrupting the illegal wildlife trade through the Horn of Africa and how CCF's more than three decades of effort in Namibia have become the standard in cheetah conservation. The crowd walked away inspired and amazed.

Dr. Laurie Marker speaks to a packed audience

Dr. Laurie Marker, Julie Banner, Dominique Diroff, and Regan Hofmann

Dr. Laurie Marker, Dr. Bruce Brewer, and NSLM Executive Director Elizabeth von Hassell

The National Sporting Library & Museum wishes to thank and recognize our corporate, individual, and foundation supporters whose donations were received between October 1, 2022 and October 31, 2023 and our members whose renewals were received between October 1, 2022 and October 31, 2023. These contributions form the foundation of financial support for the NSLM's operations. We are grateful for gifts at all levels and thank our many donors and friends.

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error or omission, we express our sincere apologies and ask that you bring it to our attention by calling (540) 687-6542 x35.

ENDNOTES

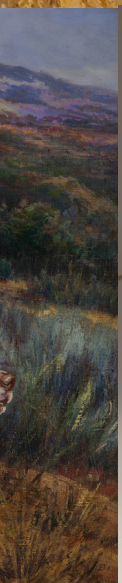
Last spring, the National Sporting Library & Museum (NSLM) was the recipient of a generous bequest from Gwynne McDevitt. Her sporting dog collection of artwork that arrived on campus comprises 86 paintings, works on paper, sculptures, and a weathervane. Artists include Robert Abbett (American, 1926–2015), Antoine-Louis Barye (French, 1795–1875), Marguerite Kirmse (British/American, 1885–1954), Edmund Osthaus (German/American, 1858–1928), and Percival Rosseau (American, 1859–1937).

McDevitt was a member of the American Kennel Club and had a particular affinity for Gordon Setters. She trained her dogs at her Double Dee Farm and Kennels in Newtown Square, PA, and frequently competed and won at dog trials. She commissioned several paintings of her dogs from Abbett, like Dare and Dash and Diana.

The collection presents a range of dog breeds and subject matter: gun dogs in the field, foxhounds, canine portraits, and even a charming scene of puppies observing a frog. There are a few non-canine compositions, like a pair of bronze pheasants by Barye, a polar bear by Abbett, and a bobwhite quail by Edwin Penny (British, 1930–2016).

We are honored that Gwynne McDevitt entrusted the NSLM to be stewards for her beloved collection, and we look forward to highlighting her bequest in an exhibition in the near future.

Background: Robert K. Abbett (American, 1926–2015), Study of Dash and Dare, c. 1982, oil on panel, 7 1/2 x 11 7/8 inches; Lower left to right: Robert K. Abbett (American, 1926–2015), Polar Bear (study), 1992, oil on panel, 6 3/4 x 9 1/8 inches; Edmund Osthaus (German/American, 1858–1928), Setters on Point, n.d., oil on canvas, 26 1/4 x 40 1/4 inches,Antoine-Louis Barye (French, 1795–1875) Pheasants, a pair, bronze, each 5 1/4 x 13 3/4 x 4 3/8 inches; Robert K. Abbett (American, 1926–2015), Diana, 2003, oil on board, 20 x 25 inches; National Sporting Library & Museum, Gift of the Estate of Gwynne McDevitt, 2023



Women's Fall Flyfishing Trip
September 5–9, 2024

Due to popular demand, the NSLM is organizing an all-inclusive, women's flyfishing trip in fall 2024 to the South Holston River Lodge in Tennessee. Enjoy three full days of the best in professionally guided flyfishing (2 to a boat), riverside accommodation, creative and delicious meals, and limitless fun! Complimentary beer and wine are available throughout your stay, and all the cabins are fully stocked with beverages and snacks.

This incredibly special opportunity is being extended to NSLM Patron Circle level members and above. All fishing skill levels are welcome.

Leave your worries behind, and "tight lines," everyone!

South Holston River Lodge
THE SOUTH'S PREMIER FLY FISHING DESTINATION

This is an ideal holiday gift!
Space is extremely limited, so reserve your spot by December 25, 2023.

The trip includes guides, meals, and lodging at $2,925 per guest (+13.25% tax).

To ensure your space, or if you have any questions about the trip, please contact Julie Banner at JBanner@NationalSporting.org or (540) 687-6542 x25

Upcoming Events

For more information or to RSVP, contact **Info@NationalSporting.org** or **540-687-6542 x25**

Last Sunday of every month | 2:00 pm
Sunday Sketch

1/27/24 | 10:00 am
Coffee with the Library Curator

Spring 2024
Quail Roundtable Discussion

TBD
Duplicate Book Sale

For more information, registration, and events, please visit us online or scan **QR code:**

NationalSporting.org

HOURS OF OPERATION
Thursday–Sunday | 10 am–5 pm
Hours subject to change | Closed on federal holidays

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MAIL PO BOX 1335, Middleburg, VA 20118-1335
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Seniors (65 & Older) & Youth (13–18) **$8**
EBT/SNAP Recipients and First Responders **Free**